



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

TO THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Membership and Organization

MEMBERSHIP is the foundation of an organization. The structure of objectives and program resting upon it must be built by interested and enthusiastic workers. The President of the Woman's Auxiliary to the California Medical Association, Mrs. Floyd K. Anderson, has given us the following motto for the year 1962-63:

*"Increase Membership
Strengthen Friendship
And let it begin with me."*

Probably at no time in our history as an Auxiliary has it been more important that we endeavor to achieve such a goal. We recognize the fact that we are an Auxiliary and, therefore, the challenges and problems which face the Medical Association are also our challenges and our problems and that we must strive to assist in their solution. In order to grow in strength and influence we need to grow in numbers. We need every physician's wife as a member of the Auxiliary. And we believe that every physician's wife needs her membership in the Auxiliary.

Our potential for growth in membership in California is a real challenge. At the close of the year 1961-1962 we had 7,383 members in the state, an increase of 113 over the previous year. We are the largest State Auxiliary in the country. We also like to think we are the best. But there are over 17,000 doctors in the California Medical Association. Where are the nearly 10,000 Missing Wives! Most of them live in areas in which there are organized County Auxiliaries. We have 34 County Auxiliaries, ranging in size from Los Angeles County with a membership of over 1,500 to Tehama with 9 members. Every doctor who is a member of the California Medical Association should urge his wife to join the Auxiliary if she does not belong. These missing wives are missing an opportunity! Among all of the organizations to which she may belong, the Woman's Auxiliary is unique. Our basis for membership is the fact that we are all wives of doctors. So we begin with the mutual interest we all share in helping our husbands and their chosen profession. Where else can you find so strong a reason for working together?

Included in our total of 7,383 members are 37 members-at-large who live in counties where there is no organized County Auxiliary. We are proud of these 37 women. Although they do not have the advantage of enjoying the fel-

lowship and programs of a group meeting, they continue to support the policies and programs of the State Auxiliary by payment of their dues. And we feel sure that they do their part as liaison between the public and the medical profession in the areas in which they live.

Through County Auxiliary programs the physician's wife is provided with accurate information on matters concerning medicine and public health. She will be able to answer the questions of her neighbors and friends. Possession of the correct information is her responsibility, for she is more often quoted as a physician's wife than as an individual. Through the Auxiliary she is able to learn about the health needs of her community and what can be done about them, which makes her participation in other community organizations more effective. Whether or not she chooses the role, she represents the medical profession to the public with whom she associates. She can wield a positive influence if she is well informed and articulate. She can well consider the fact that in helping the public to better understand the aims and problems of her husband's profession she is also helping herself, since it is *her* way of life as well as his.

It is a privilege to belong to a County Auxiliary. It is also a pleasure, for one of membership's richest rewards is the opportunity to be friends with the wives and families of other physicians. Friendships can be strengthened through working together.

During the summer the membership committees in the County Auxiliaries will be making plans for maintaining the active interest of their present members, for creating a desire to rejoin on the part of members who have dropped out and for increasing their membership by inviting all wives who are eligible to become members. Experience has taught us that the personal invitation to "come with me to the next Auxiliary meeting" has the strongest appeal to the prospective member. So we hope that every member will consider herself a part of her Auxiliary's membership committee in this sense and that she will invite someone she knows and thinks should belong. "Let it begin with me."

To the members of the California Medical Association:

"Let it begin with YOU."

Invite *your* wife to join.

MRS. JOHN L. GALLAGHER,
Membership Chairman
Woman's Auxiliary to the
California Medical Association